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Pony Express

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Campus Conditions

By Kristen D'Angelo, Holly Long, and Sophie Orgish

It's common knowledge that San Marin is referred to as the "hick school", compliments of the smell of the horse stables across the street. Even so, shouldn't we be proud of our school? After all, we have a beautiful campus with towering trees, surrounding hills, and grass (at least when the rain hasn't turned it to mud), and thanks to the passing of bond Measure A, many of the less than stellar aspects of our school will be improved over the course of the next five years.

Some improvements have already been made, such as the installation of the new benches on the main quad, the area in front of the student center. Recently, Assistant Principal Toni Beal sat down with us and explained all of the work that will be taking place starting this summer. When we return from summer vacation next fall, we won't have to worry about the treacherous walkways around the quad. These walkways are notorious around campus for causing grief to book-laden students trying to maneuver their ways across the campus. Junior Lindsay Walsh commented, "I trip and embarrass myself daily." The uneven cement blocks will be removed and replaced with an even circular cement walkway, with the possibility of smaller walkways leading off of it. There is also hope of renovating the soccer field. Beal wishes to assemble a site committee for the renovation of our athletic fields, as well as the classrooms. The committee would consist of Beal, two classified staff, two parents (preferably the parents of freshmen and sophomores), two teachers, the president of leadership, the president of PTSA, the president of Sports Boosters, and two students. The

purpose of the committee would be to provide input on ideas as to what the changes would look like. When renovating our athletic fields, Beal hopes that teams and coaches will give their input on what they would like done.

The modernizing of the school buildings will begin in 2005, starting with the 400 and 500 buildings. This includes renovating the bathrooms, an improvement which the whole student body can now look forward to. At this time

they will also begin paving the various pathways around campus, the parking lots, and



emergency access. There will also be the addition of ADA site accessibility, which is the addition of pathways for

those in wheelchairs or with other mobility-restricting handicaps. In 2006 we get to look forward to the renovation of the gym, the student center, and the fine arts building, as well as the modernization of the restrooms in those buildings. We will also see the improvement of the lockers in the area around the gym that year. The freshmen will be the only ones here in 2007, but they will be able to enjoy the improvements of the science building, the library, the 300 classrooms, and the

portables, not to mention the last round of renovation for the bathrooms in those same buildings.

All of us will be gone by the time everything is completed, yet we will still be able to enjoy some of the changes. Even with everything that needs to be fixed up, our school really is a place to be proud of, especially with all the hours of hard work our custodians put in to maintain our campus. After all, it could be a lot worse, as junior Lara Palanjian stated, "I'm glad we're not an indoor campus." Yeah, we're glad too.

The Governator: A Recap

By Eric Eisberg

After what was perhaps the most important gubernatorial election in Californian history, Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger has become the state's 38th governor, pledging to be "a governor for all the people of California." As he takes the reigns from former Governor Gray Davis, Schwarzenegger must strive to keep his numerous campaign promises while contending with a potentially hostile, Democratically controlled state legislature.

As a fiscal conservative, Schwarzenegger repeatedly promised to try to bring businesses back to California by lowering property and corporate taxes. He hopes that these measures will increase revenues and help to bring the state out of its \$25 billion deficit. Critics call his spending irresponsible and say that it is likely to strain the state's already troubled fiscal situation.

A f t e r

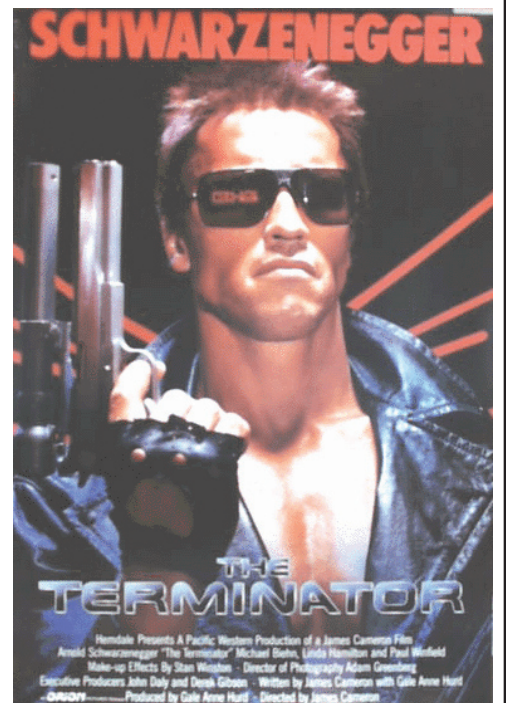
his inauguration, Schwarzenegger immediately signed two executive orders to eliminate the 300% increase on the car tax and to call the state legislature into special session. At this session, Schwarzenegger introduced a \$15 billion bond measure to help eliminate the state deficit. He reduced his own salary, saying that he has enough money and does not need to take the taxpayers'. He has also proposed repealing SB-60, a controversial state senate bill that gave undocumented aliens the ability to apply for California driver's licenses. Finally, the new governor has proposed an audit of the state budget by an independent organization to locate the waste and overspending among the state's numerous departments.

San Marin students have a diverse range of opinions regarding the new governor. Many students feel that he is too inexperienced to be running

such a powerful state. "I just have hard time taking him seriously," says sophomore Jhenette Stranne. Other students maintain a cautious optimism, like sophomore Paul Himmelstein. "He came over from Austria with nothing and now has everything. You need to work hard to do that."

While many of the new policies the governor plans to implement may seem irrelevant to San Marin students, the governor's fiscal policies have been described as risky and may increase the state budget deficit. If this happens, it is possible that funding to the school system could be cut, and last year's lay-offs and program cuts could easily be repeated.

G o v e r n o r Schwarzenegger is still relatively untested, but has strived to keep many of his more important campaign promises as soon as he was inaugurated. With a mixed cabinet and his marriage into the Kennedy and Shriver families, he may have the ability to bridge the gap between party lines and govern effectively.



If you could get anybody under the mistletoe, who would it be and why?



Jared Shaver - "I'd pick Mrs. Claus because what Santa don't know won't hurt him."



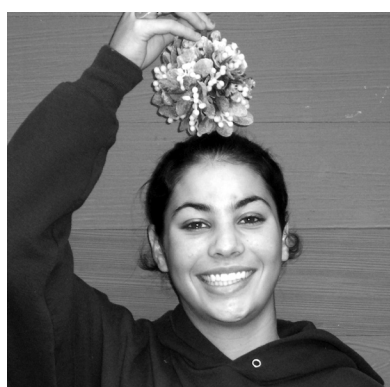
Shayna Long - "Dino Maioriello because he's furry like a giant stuffed animal."



Lauren Candia - "I'm Jewish so forget the holy land, take me to LE-LAND."



Daniel Trucios - "Any girl that looks good and is willing."



Jennie Distefano - "Time Stewart because he's all I want for Christmas."



Kyra Toquito - "Mr. Whitburn because of his uncanny resemblance to Santa Claus."

Parking Lot Ban Breaking Students' Backs

By Brad McCarter

At the beginning of this school year, seniors were asked to give up their lockers due to a shortage of space for the incoming freshman. Therefore, many of us believed that we would be able to use our cars as a substitute for lockers where we could store our books and other personal items. However, the administration has now banned students from going to the parking lots or accessing their cars at break.

With a calculus book the size of Montana and four other textbooks, it gets rather tiresome lugging my backpack around campus for five periods. If I were able to go to my car at break (like I used to be able to do with my locker), then I would not have to carry all my books around with me. It only seems fair and in the best interest of the students (and their backs) to allow us to have access to our cars as often as other students have access to their lockers.

When I spoke with Assistant Vice Principal Lilly Rollins about this issue, I was informed that the recent amplification of campus supervision is in response to the suspicion that some students are concealing "sensitive materials" which could be found by search dogs. Supervisors suspect that certain students may return to their cars at break or during class to remove those items and carry them on their person (the dogs are not allowed to search you, but they can search your property). Unfortunately, it seems to me that the suspicion of a few irresponsible students is making things more difficult on the rest of us.

School leaders and administrators are planning on holding a meeting sometime soon to address this issue, and hopefully a compromise can be reached. I don't think that many of us want to lug books the size of states around much longer.

Pony Classifieds

Are you looking to sell or advertise your services to the school community? Are you a student who needs a tutor or a tutor looking to help students? Why not use the San Marin Pony Express Classifieds? This year, the Pony Express will be devoting a section of the school newspaper to classifieds for students and parents alike to advertise everything from cars for sale to babysitting to tutoring. If you are interested in putting an ad in the paper, contact us at business@smjournalism.com.

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The Pony Express is published monthly by the journalism class at San Marin High School. The Pony Express seeks to provide a public forum for student expression and encourages letters to the editors. No unsigned letters will be accepted; however the author's name may be withheld upon request.

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Something at San Marin bother you? Confuse you? Want to know when or why a tradition started? Contact the Pony Express and we'll find out for you.

Disagree with something you read in the Pony Express? Something you heard at school? Write a letter to the editors and start a dialogue. Remember the Pony Express is the voice of the San Marin student body.

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Foreign Intervention in Africa: A Tale of Two Countries

By Paige Lehman

Recently, the United States has been accused of trying to police the world. Military action in Iraq, continued support of Israeli forces in the West Bank, and the contemplation of military action against North Korea have contributed to this idea, and raises the question: When does the United States, or any other country, have the right to intervene in another country's affairs? To answer this, it is best to look towards Africa, a place long haunted by tragedy and strife.

The two most recent epicenters of conflict are Liberia and Congo. While the entire continent struggles with AIDS and famine, these two countries have been caught up in extreme violence that has taken thousands of lives. The difference between the two is that Liberia was primarily a U.S. interest, while aid to Congo was organized by a multinational force.

The United States

essentially created the modern state of Liberia. Before 1840, it was populated by several different indigenous tribes. The United States then named Liberia as a nation so former slaves could "return home". Unfortunately, it was rather ill-conceived, as the majority of the slaves sent to live there had no recollection of Africa. They created a society not unlike the American South at the time, with the native Liberians acting as servants to the newly arrived Americans. The government was also extremely unstable; leaders came to power through violence and rigged elections.

The Liberia of today is by no means what the founders in 1840 had imagined. Chaos rules in the poverty-stricken nation. Child soldiers carrying menacing guns roam the streets, and 80% of the population lives below the poverty line. An intervention of some sort seemed obvious,

as the Liberian government was corrupt and uninterested in helping its people. The United States felt it had the right to send in troops, an action which was met with mixed response. Initially, the United States carried the blame of Liberia's failure, and so the argument for military action was that the United States needed to undo the damage it had done. Others thought the United States had no right to intervene in yet another country's problem. There are many countries in situations similar to Liberia's, so why is the U.S. only interested in helping Liberia?

In August of this year, President Charles Taylor of Liberia was charged by the U.N. with war crimes and



forced to resign. Now the question remains, how much of the rebuilding process should be up to the United States? Liberia was a failed project of the United States, but at the same time, is that reason enough to interfere with a now-independent nation?

Perhaps the answers can be found in a nation not unlike Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ethnic warfare has

killed off thousands from all sides. Women have suffered particularly here, with cases of brutal rape and murder occurring all over the country. The United Nations has dispatched a French-led multinational force for peacekeeping operations. Liberia might fare better if it did the same, having a U.S.-led multinational force intended for peacekeeping rather than military occupation.

Revamping Novato

By Amber Shields

San Rafael, Mill Valley, Fairfax, and Petaluma all have exciting downtown areas that draw Novato youth and adults in for the good shopping and eating. Yet while many enjoy the quaint downtown feeling; the small coffee shops, the boutiques, the nice restaurants, few

downtown Grant Ave. area. Redevelopment and Economic Development Administrator Ron Gerber says that this is one of the key steps in making Novato more consumer friendly, "The street is really important. It is one of the most expensive projects that Novato has ever

and six years to come up with and probably won't reach all of its goals for at least a few more years, but it is focusing on long term goals that will dramatically change how downtown Novato is viewed. It hopes to attract more shops and restaurants (both nice dinner restaurants and coffee shops). Gerber says that the city is, "Trying to attract the kinds of businesses that people want. There is a lot of interest in Novato and now that owners know where it is they want to move here. The hard part is finding a location for different retailers and finding property owners to let them use that location. We are talking to developers, brokers, and realtors and trying to bring them in, it's just all a question of time and finding the right place."

The city is not only looking for new businesses for the downtown area, they are also looking for people to move downtown. While the street restoration is focused mainly on Grant Ave., the whole project is focused on all of downtown Novato which encompasses a much

larger area including Grant Ave., Redwood Blvd., and Roland Blvd. To encourage people to move in the city has changed downtown zoning ordinances and now allows people to build up and expand their properties. They also have designated a specific downtown redevelopment area where the property taxes of that area will go to benefit only that area in an attempt to improve it. This money will help pay for revitalization and affordable housing. Gerber says that encouraging people to move there is part of the effort, "to make the downtown area an area will people to hang out."

The construction on Grant Ave. had the part of the street that runs through the downtown shopping area closed for a while, but it is now open again. Stacy (I didn't get her last name, hopefully if I go down to take a pic. I can get it), an employee at the downtown boutique Mode Marche, says, "When the construction was in front of our store it was a damper for business. Hopefully now that it's over we will get more people down here. In the end hopefully it will come out better." Graize, an Italian café, has

similar hopes about the new business that this construction will bring. Graize employee Renee Norman thinks that business is going well for the restaurant, but hopes that this new project will attract more people to the area. "We've been pretty busy because we are a new restaurant and have been getting a fairly large morning crowd for cafes and lattes and we get a variety of customers for lunch, from teens to adults. Eventually downtown Novato may be like San Rafael's Fourth Street and this will become a destination. It's getting there."

Other projects in the downtown area include more construction on the rest of Grant Ave. and possibly the re-opening of the Novato Theater as a performing arts venue in the next couple of years.

Though Grant Ave. is open again, the revamping of downtown Novato is far from over. These projects may create the exciting, fun, and close place to hangout that Novato teens have been pining for. It could take many years to make it as popular as San Rafael's Fourth Street, but as Norman says, "It's getting there."



Novato teens take advantage of the same services offered in Novato. But the City of Novato is trying to change that, and has undertaken one of their most expensive projects ever in an attempt to revitalize the downtown area.

The first step of this effort to revamp Novato is the revitalization of the

undertaken and it shows to businesses that Novato is committed and wants to get upgraded." The project started off this year with a \$10 million revitalization of Grant Ave. with everything from new paving, lights, irrigation, and landscaping. This is all part of the Downtown Specific Plan. The plan took between five

Ms. Lemon Is Not Sour

By Joe Mertel

How does Ms. Lemon do it? She is truly one of a kind! Many of the students at San Marin who have had Ms. Lemon as a teacher understand what I am talking about.

Ms. Lemon is a wonderful English teacher who touches all of her students. She grabs the attention and respect from students who either excel or struggle in English. Many students respect Ms. Lemon as a teacher, but as a friend and role model. Junior Alicia Miranda says, "Ms. Lemon is great! She is funny, energetic, and just an all around great lady."

Ms. Lemon believes in her students and has very high expectations for them. "When I actually got into the classroom, I just loved being around teenagers and all of their energy and potential,"

says Ms. Lemon. This is one of the main reasons why students look up to her. Junior Brian Gee respects Lemon because, "She creates a comfortable environment in which the students feel encouraged to participate."

Born in Hollywood, California, and raised all over Southern California, Lemon, "loves to write, and loves literature, and these were things that really "helped me get through those oh-so-traumatic teenage years."

As a child, Lemon earned mostly A's and B's throughout her schooling. This was especially difficult to accomplish while working 40 hours a week in her junior and senior years of high school. Lemon currently lives in Petaluma and carools to school with Ms. Yorty who, she says, is "the best teacher ever."

Lemon went to college all over the state. She started off at Humboldt State for a year, then went to Cal Poly Pomona, and then went to Wales to study British Literature. After her graduation, she received her credential at Sonoma State.

In her spare time Lemon loves to ride her road bike, play with her dog, read, and spend lots of time with her family. Her



parents live separately in LA, and her —"pregnant,

to, "women who have been through the unthinkable but have 'overcome.' Many of them are characters in literature." Whatever she does to emulate these women, it works, because Ms. Lemon has been as inspiration to her students. Junior Meagan Greenblat says, "Ms. Lemon is a nice cheery teacher who always makes me look forward to the next English lesson."

Ms. Lemon is dedicated to her job and will do what it takes

to push students until they succeed. "As difficult and overwhelming as this job can be sometimes, I feel so lucky to get to be around so many awesome people everyday," she says. I want to thank YOU (the students) for making the job worth it!"

I'm going to be an aunty"—sister lives there as well. Lemon's younger brother lives with her best friend, who she considers a part of her family also. "I love my whole family bunches, but I spend the most time with my older bro," says Lemon.

Ms. Lemon looks up

Desk "Art"?

By Alyssa Pomponio and Abigail Yim

As students, we are subjected to hours of sitting in hard, 2' X 1.5' metal desks. Even though we are all dedicated learners who never let our minds wander, every once in a while a doodle gets the better of us. We look to our binder, but find we have used up all the binder paper on math homework and MASH. Therefore, we search to the next available canvas: the desk we are sitting at.

interesting to look at. Many students use desk scribbling as a means to communicate with others. Senior Matt Mauer says he "writes messages to people in the next class - love notes." Some desks have become message boards among the different classes - a forum for students to express their class pride.

Although communication among students may be a motive,

Mauer agrees with Miller's observation, citing that "it's an alternative to sleeping."

But what are the consequences of this often unconscious pastime? Teachers and custodians know all too well the time consuming process of cleaning up desk "art." Science teacher André Sisneros says, "Many students don't seem realize that I have to clean it off. I have tests and lesson plans to make; it's frustrating to take time to clean up after bored students." Miller explains the challenging cleaning process, "I take a scroungy sponge and use a soft scrub cleaner and lots of elbow grease."

Though writing on your desk in math may seem inevitable, it's still defacing property that isn't yours. To ward off any doodling withdrawals while still maintaining student creativity, math teacher Stella Clark suggests the school provide "a wall dedicated to a graffiti mural." So the next time the doodle-bug gives you a bite, find an available piece of paper and put down your ideas for the potential graffiti wall.



San Marin desks, both the surfaces and the backs of the chairs, are littered with taggings, intricate pictures, profanity, and even pornography. Some feel doodling on desks can be an art form and

chatter in the hallways could be a simpler solution. So, why does the problem still persist? Custodian Mark Miller says, "I don't think that students intentionally try to harm property; they draw out of boredom."

Academy

By Clint Potter

At times The Academy Program may seem like an enigma to outsider students. The program doesn't follow standard boring textbook-ditto-test cycle; but rather, the program focuses on project-based learning. From this rises the speculation which many students like sophomore Mikey DeLosa-Tham believe that "Academy is just an excuse for the overly lazy students of San Marin to get by and take the easy road to college." In actuality, it's an alternative learning program geared toward students who have struggled in regular high school courses

Started in 1992 the brainchild of Principal Virginia Stuart; Academy is alternative learning focusing more on technology and career life. The class largely consists of quarterly projects in which they create some sort of report or story, which ties in the material that has been taught while using technology. All this is done while still completing the state standards and prepping for SAT and other college entry tests.

"Even though I'm not in Academy and I never will be, it looks like super fun" Sophomore Seain McCann. What sets Academy apart from other classes and gives it the biggest appeal is the implication of flex days and free days. Once or twice a week the Academy students have a "flex day," when they are given a majority of the day to work on their project with their groups, as opposed to most regular classes, where projects are largely done at home. Furthermore, several times a year students are allowed to go up and perform, show independent projects or whatever they like.

Academy is neither better nor worse than the regular academic course. However, taken into proportion the Academy program receives more money than any other department or class, and turns out about the same number of students that go on to further education. Proving that a particular class can't always turn out better students, truly coming down to the motivational drive in a student.

Movies for All Occasions

By Alex Randall

Winter is here and the video stores are opening their doors for you. Tired of searching through what seems like millions of movies in order to find the one that suits you best? Here are some suggestions for all your moods.

Feel like singing and dancing?

Footloose (PG)-1984

Kevin Bacon plays Ren McCormack, a hip youth from Chicago who, when his father passes away, is forced to move to the Midwest to live with his mother and his other relatives. Ren's outward attitude and love of rock n' roll attract the attention of the sleepy town, where the citizens begin to fear his possible negative influence on their children. Ren must now convince the local reverend (John Lithgow), along with the rest of the town that his music is not as bad as they think. With scintillating dancing and singing numbers, this movie is sure to help you get your groove on. Also starring: Lori Singer, Dianne Wiest, Chris Penn, Sarah Jessica Parker, and John Laughlin.

Feel like laughing?

Picking one movie to call the best is tough, under one name: Mel Brooks. Bringing us movies such *History of the World Part I*, *Spaceballs*, and *Robin* has done nothing but make us laugh so hard our and his ability to make us smile tops them all. So if pull out a Mel Brooks film and get ready to giggle.

Feel Like Crying (Chick Flick)?

Now and Then (PG-13)-1995

This heartwarming story tells the tale of four childhood friends (Ashleigh Aston Moore) whose summertime adventures influence girls rely on each other for all sorts of things, such as comfort boys. The movie then flashes twenty years into the O'Donnell, Melanie Griffith, Demi Moore, and Rita their friendship is. This movie will make you laugh and than you did before.

Feel Like Dressing in Drag?

Rocky Horror Picture Show (R)-1975

In one of the most unique categories, there It stars the very-talented Tim Curry as Dr. Frank-n-breaks out in songs about everything and anything. Magenta (Patricia Quinn), the maid. Their antics corrupt the naïve and innocent young couple (Susan Sarandon and Barry Bostwick), who find themselves in a mysterious mansion after their car breaks down. Also known as one of the greatest cult movies ever, Rocky Horror Picture Show is one never to be forgotten.



but the epitome of comedy can be grouped as *Blazing Saddles*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Hood: Men in Tights*, this comic genius stomachs hurt. His creativity is amazing, you're feeling down or just plain bored,

(Christina Ricci, Thora Birch, Gaby Hoffman, their lives permanently. As adolescents, the during hard family times and advice about future, where the women, portrayed by Rosie Wilson, reminisce and realize how important cry, but will inevitably leave you feeling better

His partners in mayhem are

is only one movie that comes to mind. Furter, a crazy singing transvestite who Riff Raff (Richard O' Brien), the butler, and

Feel Like Seeing Things Blow Up?

The name's Bond. James Bond. This legendary series about a seemingly undefeatable British secret agent makes you wonder, will he ever die? Even though a million bullets per movie are sent flying his way, not one has resulted in a fatal impact. With every car he enters eventually blowing up, Bond seems to leave a path of destruction (all for a good cause, of course) following wherever he goes. Despite all his activities, he still finds time to sweet-talk the legendary Bond girls who populate each film. So if you're in the mood to see anything and everything explode, rent any Bond movie and crank up the volume.

Feel Like An Adventure?

Once again, one man steals the show: Indiana Jones. From running through jungles to facing snakes, Jones (Harrison Ford) proves his invincibility in each of the movies in the trilogy. The trilogy includes *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. His ability to escape every situation might leave him a little predictable, but his means of escape always seem to astonish the first-time watchers. So if you feel like sitting on the edge of your seat, Indiana Jones is the way to go.

Feel Like A Nightmare?

Psycho (R)-1960

This classic thriller, directed by the brilliant Alfred Hitchcock, tells the unhappy story of a female embezzler (Janet Leigh) on the lam who accidentally discovers the motel of death. The manager, Norman Bates (Anthony Perkins), a seemingly kind and shy man, turns out to be a psychotic (as the movie title implies) momma's boy who also enjoys killing people. A shocking twist at the end will leave you shaking for the next week. It will chill your bones and leave you running up your electric bill with all the lights you need to keep on during the night. You might also want to avoid showers for a while.

Feel Like Going Colorblind?

The Philadelphia Story (NR)-1941

This movie is one of the best black-and-white movies ever made. Tracy Lord (Katharine Hepburn), a woman marriage, is shocked when her ex-husband Dexter Haven (Cary Grant) returns to disrupt her perfect plans. Grant last movie together and once again show their brilliance. This movie has everything: glamour, romance, intrigue, and a stellar cast. This classic is one that will remain a part of American movie history forever.

about to partake in her second and Hepburn appear in their great timing, humor,

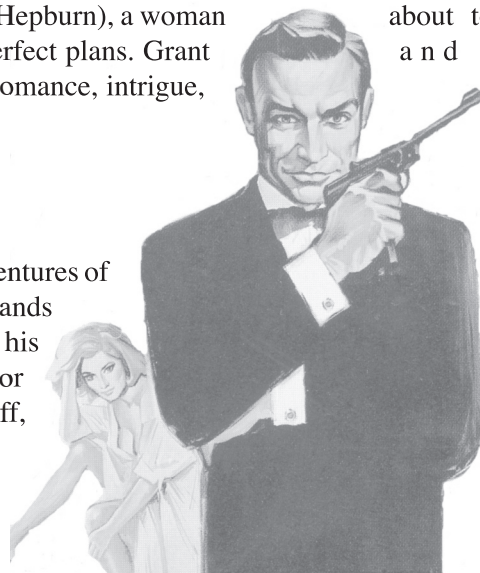
Feel Like Visiting Your Inner Child?

The Lion King (0G)-1994

This Disney movie is one of the greatest children's movies ever made. It describes the adventures of Simba whose father is assassinated by his evil uncle Scar. Scar then has Simba chased out of the lands with a meercat and a warthog named Timon and Pumba, must build up the courage to return to his rightful place as king. With voices from household names like Matthew Broderick, Jonathan Taylor Lane, this movie is one to watch over and over again. If the story doesn't knock your socks off,

a young lion cub named by hyenas. Simba, along homelands and take his Thomas, and Nathan the soundtrack will.

Happy movie-watching!!!



Santa's From Boston

By Denise Nilan

"Cherry nose, cap on head, suit that's red, special night, beard that's white must be Santa!" It's December and kids all round the world send their letters in to the big Kris Kringle. But who is who is the jolly fellow that squeezes down your chimney, disarms your alarms, and leaves you presents? The concept of Santa Claus, as we know today, is a combination of religious and legendary tales along with modern advertising techniques.

Santa's charity comes from the religious story of St. Nicholas. The real Saint Nick lived in around 300 AD and went by the name Bishop Nicholas of Smyrna. He was known for his giving duties and holy acts towards the poor. This mystery gift giver's ways have since been interpreted by countless cultures and has been the influence for many customs. In the 1700's European immigrants, primarily the Dutch, were the first to bring the concept of Santa to the colonies and from there, America has altered the image and traditions of Santa Claus.

The image of Santa is all thanks to Coca-Cola's Boston marketing team. The belly full of jelly, snow white beard and the velvet red jump suit are Coca-Cola's interpretation of the legendary St. Nick and his previous descriptions. Santa and Coke's similar trademark red is no coincidence; the design team for Coca-Cola in the thirties carefully drew this connection in hopes to boost sales during the winter months. The cartoon image of Santa is seen everywhere and is even the inspiration for our mall Santas of today.

So no, Santa doesn't really come from the North Pole, but don't let it ruin the visions of sugar plumbs dancing in your head. Santa's look may have changed over the years but his job is still the same. The masterminds at Coca-Cola did more than just increase the popularity of a soda, they made Santa an icon.



A History of New Years Celebration

By Brad McCarter and Myra Perez

Could you imagine celebrating New Year's on any other day besides December 31st? As odd as it may seem, New Year's Day was not always celebrated on the first of January. Dating back to Babylon, the first New Year's was observed 4000 years ago. The Babylonians began their new year on the first new moon after the vernal equinox. If you really think about it, they celebrated at a very reasonable time.

The first day of spring signifies the rebirth of the seasons, planting of new crops, and blossoming. This contrasts with our modern observance of the New Year, which contains no agricultural or astronomical significance. The Romans continued to observe the New Year in March, but in 153 B.C. the Roman senate declared January 1st to be the beginning of the New Year.

Over the years many different New Year's traditions have come and gone, but one that has transcended the generations is that of making New Year's resolutions. Other traditions include the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" to bring in the New Year on a good note.

Ultimate Christmas Mix

By Julia Capasso

The Christmas holiday season is here- what will *you* be bumping in your Ford Explorer as you cruise around Novato? If you know what's good for you, you'll burn this eclectic mix of Christmas favorites, new and old.

1. Alvin and the Chipmunks "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)"
Who doesn't love the Chipmunks? Three ear-piercing falsetto voices singing in harmony, with unforgettable lyrics such as "Me, I want a huuuula hoop."
2. Burl Ives "Holly Jolly Christmas"
It just isn't Christmas without Burl. You may recognize him as the voice of the snowman in the claymation movie Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer (another Christmas classic.)
3. Mariah Carey "All I Want for Christmas Is You"
Say what you will about her sanity, Mariah Carey knows how to belt out a tune. This tender song of finding true love under the mistletoe will have you singing along in no time.
4. NKOTB "Funky Funky Xmas"
It's New Kids on the Block, and there's a saxophone. Enough said.
5. Nsync "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays"
Remember back in the day when Chris Kirkpatrick had those crazy braids and Justin had those cute bleached blonde curls? I miss those days. Anyway, back before Nsync had to become all mature and "artistic" and whatnot, they sang cheesy pop Christmas songs; this is one of their bubbliest and happiest, guaranteed to make even the grinchiest humbug smile.
6. Madonna "Santa Baby"
Madge singing coyly and seductively to a large, fat, old man is slightly creepy, but this song is fun and Madonna makes it her own.
7. Johnny Cash "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
"Peace on earth and goodwill to men," the man in black sings on this classic track. His signature baritone carries the song, the lyrics telling the story of a pessimistic man who finally realizes, thanks to the bells on Christmas Day, that there is hope for mankind after all.
8. Frank Sinatra "White Christmas"
One of the most recognizable Christmas tunes, Old Blue Eyes sings of his dreams for a white Christmas. We Novato kids are wishing, too.
9. Mahalia Jackson "Winter Wonderland"
Mahalia's rich, nuanced voice will be stuck in your head for days. This is definitely the best version of the song.
10. Andy Williams "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas"
The perfect song to play in the background on Christmas Eve, before a roaring fire, drinking cider, and cuddling with that special someone.

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10 Great Things to do When the Weather Gets You Down

By Dina Rosenberg, Kayla Schott-Bresler, and Paige Thelen

1. Mud Football: Grab at least 10 friends (5 girls and 5 guys, just to make it interesting) and head over to an extra muddy field. Do not forget to bring a football and don't let the rain stop you! The recommended attire is old tennis shoes, warm socks, sweats, and an old long sleeved shirt. If you get a little cold just give someone a nice big, muddy hug to warm up. Don't be shocked if mud football ends up being mud wrestling.

2. Warm and Tasty: The best way to warm up a cold day is to sit by the fire with someone special while sipping steamy hot chocolate and nibbling on gooey chocolate chip cookies. Try this recipe!

Sift together

- * 2 cups sifted flour
- * 1/2 tsp soda
- * 1/2 tsp salt

Turn the oven to 375°

Beat well together:

- * 1/3 cp butter
- * 1/3 cp vegetable shortening
- * 1/2 cp white sugar
- * 1/2 cp brown sugar
- * 1 lg egg
- * 1 tsp vanilla

Stir in:

- * flour mixture
- * 1/2 cp chopped nuts
- * 6 oz, about 1 1/4 cp, chocolate chips

Add a bit more flour if you want to "fluff up" cookies, or if you are at high altitude, (>5500 ft). Bake for about 8-10 minutes, or until just beginning to brown a bit but still quite soft.

Leave cookies on the pan for a couple minutes before removing.

(Found from www.cooks.com)

3. Some Intellectual Fun: Get knotty with the fun filled game of Twister, or if that is not your style, show the artistic side if you are more practical by nature, with a game of Pictionary. You will be surprised with how much fun it can be. Practice managing your money with the classic game of Monopoly. Make up your own rules and keep busy all day.

4. Snuggle Up: Why don't you rent one comedy (Super Troopers, Billy Madison, Office Space), classic (West Side Story), romantic (Ever After or Pretty Woman), scary (The Ring), holiday (It's a Wonderful Life), and friendship (Stand by Me) related movie, snuggle up on the couch with your favorite movie watching pals and chow on a bowl of popcorn mixed with M&Ms. This is a relaxing and calm way to spend a day indoors.

5. Put Some Heat Into It: Throw a little steam into a dark winter night by turning on the jets and digging up those distant summer bathing suits that we all miss so much. If you are alone, and if you want to get some...company, call a cutie, be creative and use your sexiest line to attract some attention. We guarantee you will hear a car pull up seconds later. And if someone makes this offer to you, do not pass it up!

6. Don't Eat the Yellow Snow: Be spontaneous and go against that winter blizzard. Pack up the car, strap your board or skis to your roof rack, and head to the Sierras. Speed through the trees and feel the breeze, take risks, but be safe and have fun. It could be a day trip, or rent a cabin with your friends and stay for a night or two. And remember, bring along those tire chains, down jackets, long underwear, and extra thick socks.

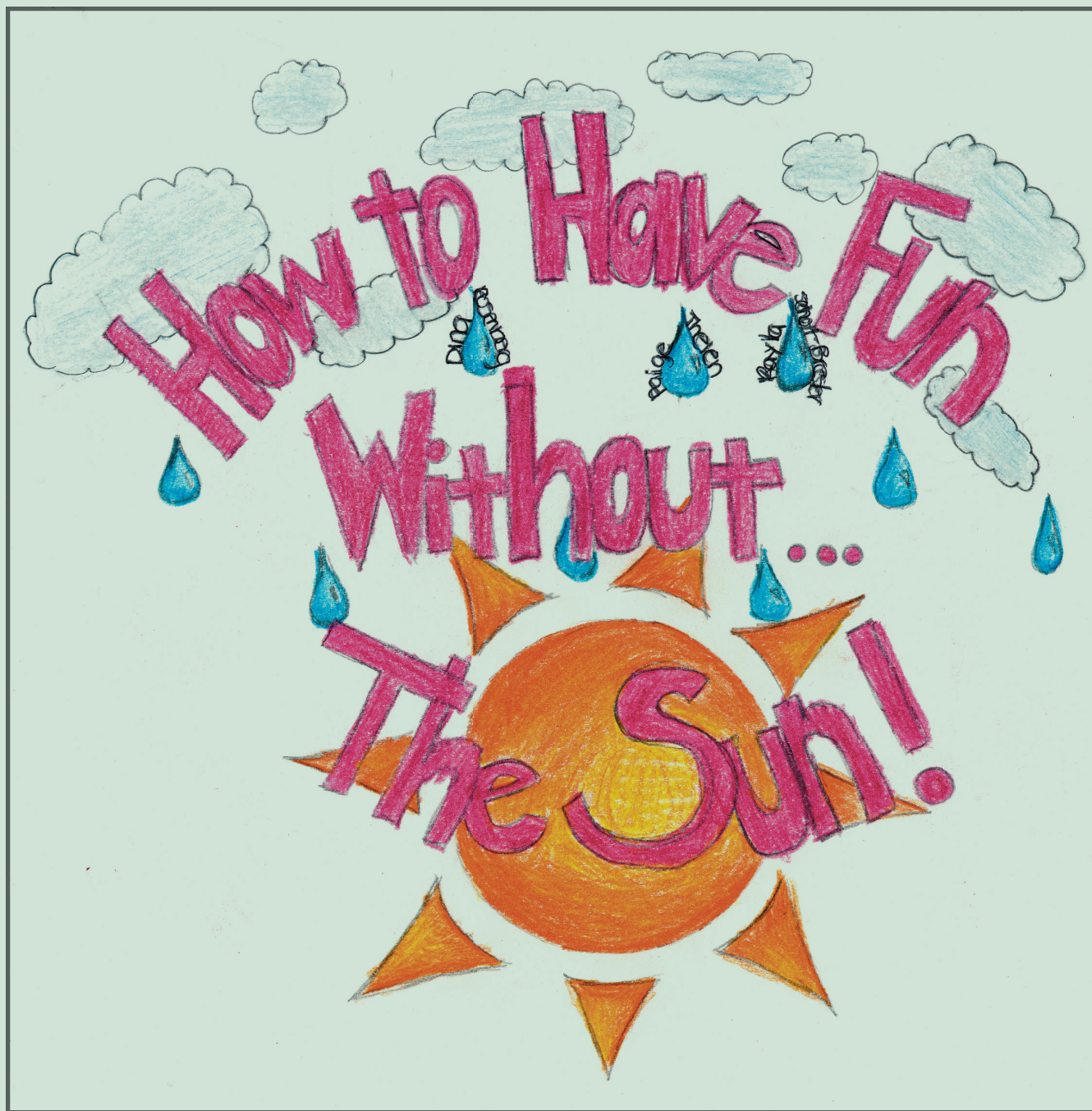
7. Feel Like Getting Your Groove On?: Why not organize an indoor dance party? Invite your best buddies and some people you feel like taking a chance on. Always provide food, drinks, and a smile from ear to ear. Search for those large speakers that have been living in your garage and bump it up a notch! Show a little skin and wear something you can groove in!

8. Strike!: Get everyone together, and take a short trip up to Petaluma for a fun evening of Xtreme bowling. Enjoy the lights and music while knocking down those pins one by one. You don't have to be pro, just go with the flow. Check out AMF Bowling Center in Petaluma, just call (707) 762-4581.

9. Don't Slip: Grab your ice skates and head to the rink or rent those ugly brown ones. Use the rail as your support, and be a good sport. Don't be shy, go all out, and don't be afraid of what you look like when you fall. You can try some jumps and spins but be careful the ice is thin! And don't be surprised if you leave with a couple bruises. Redwood Empire Ice Arena would be your best choice, so pick up the phone and call for session times at (707) 546-7147. Ask about their Christmas show, showing only through December 23!

10. Shot!!!!: If you're stuck at home, and none of these indoor activities work for you, why not support the mustangs and catch a game! Head to school with your mustang attire, and cheer on our basketball team members, whether they're from varsity, junior varsity, or freshman.

Just because you can't see the sun, that doesn't mean you can't have fun!!!



Lights! Camera! Fashion!

By Kristen D'Angelo and Sophie Orgish

The incredible organizational skills of Amanda Bautista and Katie DiStefano made the Senior Fashion Show a success this year. Sophie Orgish and Andy Garon manned the lights, and Tagliaferri's generously provided dinner. The show featured everything from Mustang Merchandise, modeled by Aaron Barteo, Amanda Bautista, and Jenny Gay, to two evening gowns, which were modeled by Jessica Rogers and Myriah Swinehart, (designed and created by San Marin senior Andrew Wedge). Whether you're into the laidback skater styles of Luckies Skate Shop, modeled by Sara Meir, Matt Milano, Nick Pottorff, and Katie Winsor, or the über-trendy clothes of Express, modeled by Kaitlyn Buckley, Marie Buich,

Alyssa Pomponio, and Katie Winsor, there was something for everyone's tastes.

If you're more into the music scene, then you would have enjoyed the entertainment provided by senior Drew Gasparini. He sang and played "41" by the Dave Matthews Band on his acoustic guitar. Julia Selfridge and Briana Kiler also lent their talents by choreographing and dancing to "Boom."

Clothing was also provided by Girlfriends, For Her (Tiburon), Lucky Brand, Macys, Mode Marche, Old Town Sports, RJ Saxx, Selix of San Rafael, St. Angelo's, Sugar Shack, and Tommy Bahama for Women. Other seniors who showcased their modeling skills were: Sunny Banihashemi, Monica Blaine, Leslie Butori, Katie

DiStefano, Courtney Dowdall, Drew Gasparini, Leland Hansen, AJ Hennessey, Ashley Larkin, Whitney Lee, Shayna Long, Dino Maioriello, Brad McCarter, Vanessa Miner, Sarah Moraes, Irma Navarro, Katherine Niehoff, Bridget O'Connor, Rachel Oppenheimer, Christina Pelka, Ashley Peterson, Jaime Sarubbi, Alex Saslow, Kenny Simmons, Whitney Stenberg, Lauryn



Sunny Banihashemi (front), Whitney Lee, and Monica Blaine strut their stuff down the runway.

Strobel, Blake Vantrease, Danny Wilson, and Gina Zucconi.

If you missed the fashion show this year, go to next year's show.

Huzzah! Madrigal Strikes Again

By Sophie Orgish

Imagine- San Marin's cramped, circular Student Center is transformed into a medieval castle of the 15th century Renaissance. The candles are lit and flickering in the cool December breeze, the banquet tables are meticulously set, and the merry, brightly adorned performers are engaged in

various tricks and displays of talent.

The Madrigal Feast is an annual tradition among the talented San Marin vocalists that this year occurred on December 5, 6, and 7. Spectators, the lords and ladies of the evening, dine on a delicious meal of several courses, and are

presented with a fantastic display of flaming pudding as dessert. Between courses, the performers flit from table to table, executing practiced slights of hand and singing classical Christmas carols such as "Deck the Halls" and "Oh Holy Night." During the courses of the meal, participants take a break in the serenading to put on a play. "The play is always really funny and satirical and kind of absurd," says sophomore Katt Knecht, who has been involved in Madrigal for two years.

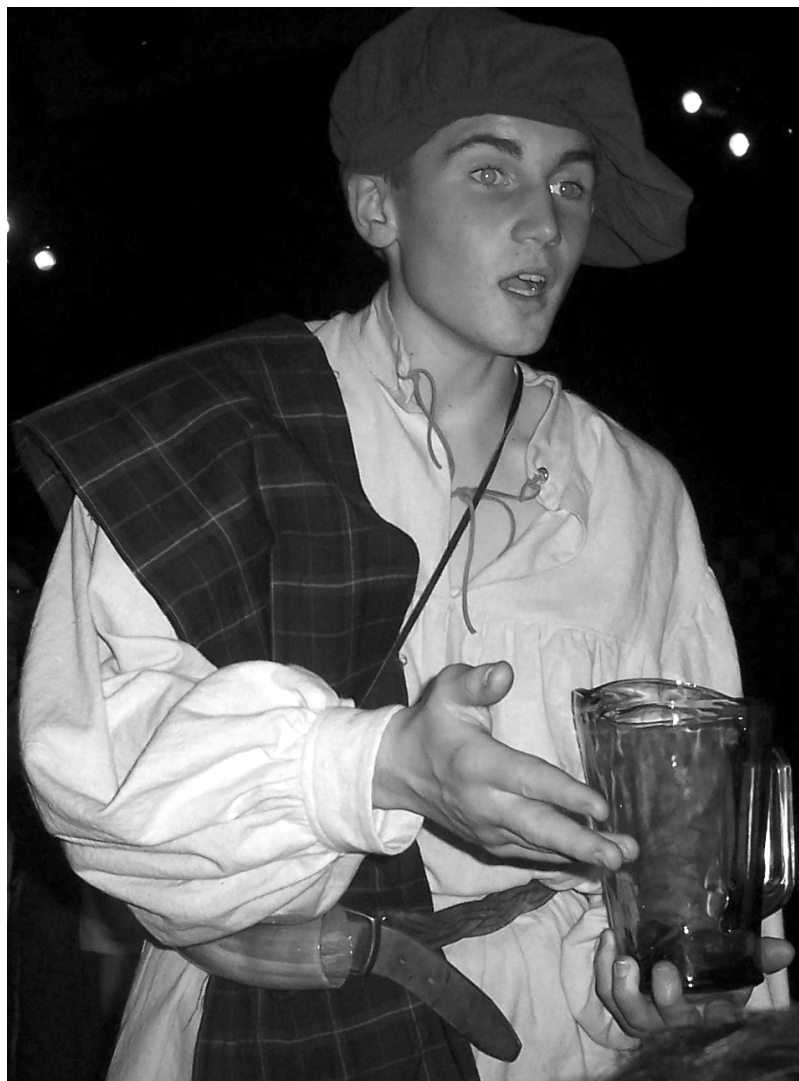
Emily Gates, head of the music department, began the annual December celebration fifteen years ago. Since that first year in 1989, she has used the money that is raised to benefit the music program. This year, about 450 people attended, raising more than 9,000 dollars to help pay for music department expenses. Senior Jessica Rogers said, "We have to pack 150 people into the Student Center every night, and we can barely fit."

Although the space may be cramped, the students who are



participating still find room to sing, dance, and have fun. Knecht sums up, "The best part of Madrigal is definitely the table entertainment because the audience gets to interact and it's really fun." Although it's over for

this year, it is, of course, happening next year as well-go see it if you have a chance. Madrigal Feast is an awesome experience and hopefully the tradition continues for many years to come.



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“The Accidentals: Where are they now?”

By Brad McCarter

For the past two years here at San Marin you may have heard the faint but joyous serenade of four young men every so often. But this year those wondrous melodies have ceased.

“The Accidentals” were a group of four young men, myself included, who found joy in singing the sweet sounds of doo-wop and barbershop music. Unfortunately, the progress of our quartet faces an inevitable obstacle: college. With our tenor, Danny Gasparini, having graduated last year and currently pursuing the many facets of university life in Long

Beach, California, the renowned doo-wop quartet was put on hiatus.

Though Danny has abandoned us, not all is lost. In fact, our bass, Eric Rivera, just returned from an Honor Choir program and is looking at a handsome scholarship to Whittier College in southern California. The lead and founder of the group, Drew Gasparini, is currently recording a demo-CD and will be featured at the Warfield in January. Drew is also hoping to go to the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California. I, myself, recently returned from Washington D.C.

where I participated in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law. Like the rest of the group, I hope to attend a university in southern California, specifically Claremont McKenna College.

There is a ray of hope that we will all be attending universities near each other and, perhaps, will coordinate a reunion tour. “Nothing big. Just some old stuff, maybe a few new tunes, but mainly old stuff. What do you say guys?” queries Drew of the rest of us. “In due time my friend, in due time,” says Eric.



The Accidentals (from left to right): Danny Gasparini, Brad McCarter, Drew Gasparini, and Eric Rivera.

Drew Gasparini: San Marin’s Rock Star

By Alyssa Pomponio

Lots of high school students dream of becoming a rock star, and many even form bands in their quests for stardom. But, most of these teenagers don’t have the talent, ambition, or longevity to last. However, Senior Drew Gasparini is one exception.

Gasparini grew up in a house filled with music; his mom was a music teacher and his dad played the drums. He picked up the basics by ear and taught himself how to play the guitar and piano. His dad taught him how to play the drums, and he took lessons in bass. Since then, Gasparini has excelled in all four instruments, but favors the guitar above the others. To make some extra money while he’s getting started, he gives guitar lessons to other students for \$20 per hour.

In addition to playing music, Gasparini has sung in numerous a capella groups, including the Accidentals quartet (see above). His passion spans the music industry and overlaps into the field of musical theater. Gasparini has performed in about 25 musicals, three of which were done through San Marin’s music department,

the rest through outside companies. His most recent role was playing the mentally retarded Tobias Ragg in the San Anselmo Playhouse’s rendition of Sweeney Todd, for which he received much praise and an offer to perform in the spring Mountain Play. Gasparini hopes to attend Chapman University, Fullerton University, or Cal Arts, and major in musical theater. “I want to be somewhat of a musician and work on the stage. I want to be an entertainer.”

Gasparini began writing music in 10th grade. He usually writes the music first, later adding the lyrics. He openly admits that he “write[s] [his] best stuff in the bathroom.” His collection includes 49 songs, with lyrics covering a range of subjects from relationships to family issues to childhood. Senior Julia Selfridge says, “It’s really impressive how far he’s come in wsuch a short time because his music is real. It’s intelligent; it’s not just some kid writing down lyrics. His songs actually mean something.” He cites Dave Matthews, Peter Gabriel, James Taylor, Captain Chrome and the

Skinny Dipppa, and MC Hammer as his inspirations and idols.

This summer, Gasparini got the break he was waiting for. “I was working with a producer named Jim, and he called me in July and offered me a gig to audition for Luce.” He played four songs for the band and gave them a demo of his music, in which he plays all the instruments and performs the vocals. Soon after the audition, Luce offered him an opportunity to open for them at the Warfield, the Phoenix, or Slims. Gasparini chose the Warfield and is “stoked” about the show.

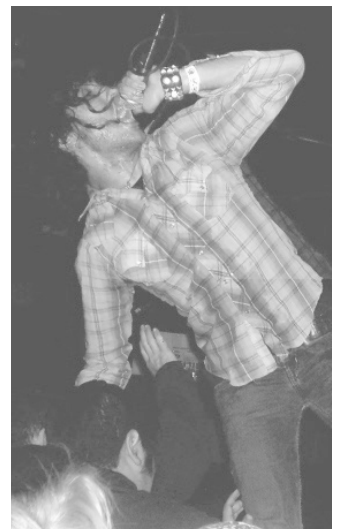
Because Gasparini plays all the instruments for his songs, he had to quickly form a band to play with him on

Concert Corner

By Julia Capasso

This December is a pretty dry month for super exciting shows, with the exception of **The Bled** on December 9 at the Pound, but there’s a pretty good array. Bay Area regulars **Dexter Danger** will play at the Oasis in San Rafael on December 5. On December 6, Candian rappers **Swollen Members** will visit Slim’s- you may have seen these guys on Much Music, if you’re lucky enough to have digital cable. **Blink 182** drops by the Arco Arena to tour after the release of their newest album, with friends the **Ataris**, **Hoobastank**, and the **Used** filling out the bill. The Ex-Mrs. Tim Armstrong and her band the **Distillers** will play at Slim’s on the 20th. **Dredg** plays Bottom of the Hill, and **Andrew W.K.**, the King of good old fashioned rock ‘n roll fun, will be rocking the Great American Music Hall, both on New Year’s Eve.

A couple shows you should check out in January: **The Matches** and **Locale A.M.** at the Outhouse in Los Gatos on January 16. **Rocky Votolato** at the Outhouse in Los Gatos on January 23- Listen up, all you Dashboard Confessional fans- you don’t know what you’re missing. Rocky takes the whole singer-songwriter cliché to a whole new level; he’s short on angst and rides high on heartfelt emotion, with lyrics that transcend simple rhymes.



Teen sensation Drew Gasparini with his guitar.

San Marin Basketball

By Shannon Silva and Allyson Walchli

Varsity Boys

The San Marin Varsity Boys Basketball Team is ready and waiting for another successful season. With eight returning players and three newcomers, the team seems to be on a paved path towards a victorious season. Leading the pack is returning coach Chad Stewart who is excited and enthusiastic about the upcoming season. Sophomore **Chris Dittman**, new to the team, is full of anticipation as the season approaches. "Varsity is a lot harder than I expected. It was a huge leap from freshman, but I'm proud to play for Chad." With only a few graduating seniors and a lot of returning players, the team can look forward to a promising 2003-2004 season.

Varsity Girls

This year the San Marin Varsity Girls Basketball Team has a new man in charge. John Franczak was a coach for Novato High girls for many years, but now he has crossed over onto San Marin territory. Franczak is a welcomed asset to this year's girl's basketball program and is looking forward to the upcoming season. "I'm excited to be hired to build a program from top to bottom and I have the good fortune of building the premier basketball teams in Marin. Although the varsity team is so young, they work hard and I see enthusiasm in all three girls levels. I'm proud and honored to build a new winning tradition at San Marin High School." A newcomer to the team is former Marin Catholic player, **Nicole Domecus**. As a sophomore, Nicole is an important addition to the team. "I'm so happy to be part of San Marin's Varsity team, and I'm fortunate that all my teammates are so welcoming." **Megan Pachetti**, in her second year as a Varsity player, is another valuable player leading the team. "We've been working hard

and it's going to be a great season." The Lady Mustangs have the potential and ability to have a winning season.

JV Boys

The San Marin Junior Varsity Boys Team has re-established itself with fresh players, in addition to their returning veterans. With returning head coach Rob Pheat, the J.V. Boys are in for a superior season. **Travis Thompson**, a new face to the team and San Marin Basketball program, is ready to dominate the court. "Just give me the ball and watch..." says Thompson, obviously very confident in his game. Returning guard **Jeff Baum** is prepared for another strong season. "The season seems to be going good so far, but I wish I had the skills my little sister Maria had on her awesome J.V. team." Even after losing three players to the varsity team, the J.V. team is tough and ready to accomplish a victorious season.

JV Girls

The San Marin Girls Junior Varsity Team has a new coach and new outlook on their future season. Sean Kenney, a former coach of University of Scranton Womens Basketball team for a total of seven years, has come to aid the J.V. team with assistant coach Kim Mevis by his side. "We feel we have the experience and

motivation to have a successful season and we will strive to assist the quality student athletes develop their basketball skills," says Kenney. **Lauren Dumont**, post player, is excited about her second year as a Mustang, but misses her outstanding coach from her freshman year. "I'm looking forward to single handedly leading our team to NCS." **Maria Baum**, post player, has moved up from the freshman team to join J.V. "I'm excited about our new coaches and we have a good group of girls. My only concern is wearing our warm-ups in public." Kenney's successful coaching and talented players are a sure formula for a successful season.

Freshman Boys

With returning coach Larry Dillon, the San Marin Freshman Boys Team has started grooming their players to become part of San Marin family. Freshman **Vince Ross**, younger brother of Lindsey Ross (a former San Marin girls Varsity player) is ready to live up to his name. "This season I'm looking forward to playing against Novato, and beating them!" Vince's teammate and fellow classmate **Tyler Taggard** also appeared to be enthusiastic about his first year as a San Marin Mustang and was quick to respond with his feelings about his team. "We have a great team and a lot of potential players."

Freshman Girls

The San Marin Freshman Girls Team has the speed and agility to overcome many of their opponents this



Senior Joe Everly fights for the ball.

quite a name to live up to. **Olivia Coughlin**, sister of varsity player Courtney Coughlin, spoke in anticipation about her first season as a Mustang. "I feel we have a great season ahead of us and the entire team is working hard." Another sibling of a returning varsity player **Kyra Toquinto**, little sister of Signy Toquinto,

is confident in her teammates and herself. "San Marin is going to make an improvement from last year's season!" The freshman team has high expectations and has the skills and ability to meet them.

Grapplers Seek 26th MCAL Title

By Brendan Dempsey and Pat Deshazo

After graduating 3 MCAL Champions last year, most would have reason to believe that this season would be a rebuilding year. Think again, because the Mustangs mean business. Anything short of a MCAL team title would be a disappointment to the wrestlers and coach Chris Augusto, who vows it's his last year coaching wrestling. "This is a determined team that will do whatever it takes to bring the MCAL Championship back to San Marin. I would love to end my coaching career on top."

The seniors are frustrated with coming in second place for the last three seasons. Terra Linda has edged out San Marin for three straight years and the team is ready to see this streak come to an end. Returning MCAL Champion senior **Steven Needham** comes into the season with state potential. After last year's disappointing finish at NCS, Needham wants to redeem himself by tearing up the competition and advancing to state. Needham states, "Anything lower than a medal at NCS would be heartbreaking. I've worked too hard to fall short of my goal." Also returning to the Mustangs are seniors **Marshall McCollum** and

Brendan Dempsey who both earned a second place MCAL finish last year after being defeated by TL wrestlers. Both wrestlers won matches at NCS and strive for more. "I'm wrestling the same weight class as last season, but I'm much stronger and my technique is better than ever," Dempsey assures. "Realistically, I have a shot at an NCS medal and a top three finish would be even better." The top three finishers in each weight class at NCS advance to the state meet. The Mustangs have a solid middle weight lineup beginning with first year senior wrestler, **Leo DelToro**. Del Toro, expected to wrestle 125's for the Mustangs, is a key element to the Mustang's success. Another important pick up for the Mustang's lineup is sophomore **Doug Collins**, a four year wrestler from Idaho who brings more depth to the lineup. Collins, expected to wrestle 135's/140's for the Mustangs, bases his skills on muscle. The grapplers can't wait to start off the regular season in December. Fan support could be the deciding factor whether the Mustangs win the MCAL Championship. Get out there and support the most winning program in San Marin history.



Varsity and JV girls practice hard.

Fall Sports Wrap-Up

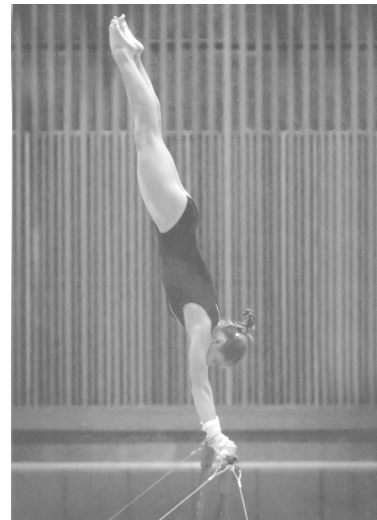
Sport	Record	Coaches	Awards
Varsity Cheer		Lydia Knight	Kristina Clark (MVP) Lauren Strobel (Most Inspirational) Ryan Navarro (Sportsmanship)
JV Cheer		Kristan Neehasil	Nikki Maioriello (MVP) Jessie Alvarez (Sportsmanship)
Girls Varsity Cross Country	5-4	Tom Zechlin	Briana Van Epps (MVP) Shannon Muhr (Sportsmanship)
Boys Varsity Cross Country	1-8	Tom Zechlin	Kyle Wideman (MVP) Roger Klein (MIP, Sportsmanship)
Varsity Football	6-6	Chris Augusto, Tom Goodwin, Kevin Ghee	Justin Graniss (MVP) Jean-Denis Ncho-Oguie (MVP Back) Mark Haapala & Dean Maioriello (MVP Line) David Selchau (Coach Award) Brian Tuel (Stiveson Award) Loren Egide & Scott Zwiaska (MIP) Johan Backstrom & David Selchau (Sportsmanship)
JV Football	6-3-1	Al Globe, Michael Webb, Dan Larkin	JJ Miller (MVP, Sportsmanship) Tyler Pina-Vertin (MIP)
Frosh Football	6-2	Dan Fisherbaugh	Vince Ross & Erik Schadler (MVP) Erik Schadler (Sportsmanship)
Girls Varsity Golf	6-7	Randy Willis	Rachel Oppenheimer (MVP) Allison Green & Lauren Schwarze (MIP) Krista Walker (Sportsmanship)
Boys Varsity Soccer	8-6	Jay Larson, Mike Carbone	Edgar Ramirez (MVP) Misael Medrano (MIP) Fili Ramirez (Sportsmanship)
Boys JV Soccer	6-7	Tim Sullivan	Stefan Auzans (MVP) Nick George (Sportsmanship)
Girls Varsity Tennis	1-14	Ryan Berberian	Jessica Ruth (MVP) Dina Rosenberg (MIP) Jennie Slawson (Sportsmanship)
Girls Varsity Volleyball	3-11	Tim Hawkins	Megan Faherty (MVP) Cathryn Bennett (Sportsmanship)
Girls JV Volleyball	2-12	Francine Cunnie	Liz Maurer & Amanda Morrow (MVP) Amanda Morrow (Sportsmanship)
Girls Frosh Volleyball	0-4	Siobhan Timmer	Allison Arnheiter (MVP) Becky Landeros (Sportsmanship)
Girls Varsity Water Polo	4-7	Jim Larson	Myra Perez (MVP) Melanie McCollum (Leadership) Jamie Lummis (Sportsmanship)

MVP = Most Valuable Player

MIP = Most Improved Player

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Stacy Nicolini

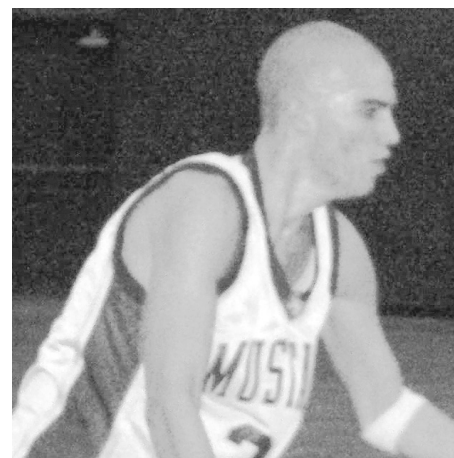


By Shannon Silva

Stacy Nicolini is a talented new freshman at San Marin. In addition to maintaining her hectic academic career, she is an accomplished gymnast, bound to represent the United States in the future Olympic Games. Nicolini has been training and competing in gymnastics for seven years at the Cal West Gymnastics Center in Fremont. She has a grueling schedule but she says she doesn't mind because the satisfaction is worth the work. She practices four days a week for four hours and then on Saturday mornings for five hours.

All her hard work paid off in 2000 when she won the State Meet and made the California State team. Nicolini plans to use her gymnastic abilities to obtain scholarships from welcoming colleges. Although she hasn't decided yet where she wants to attend, she is sure that when the time does come it will be a difficult decision for her to make. Nicolini participates in all events including: bars, beam, floor and vault, though her favorite is bars. Stacy Nicolini has a bright future ahead of her; she has worked hard and long and deserves to be recognized for her amazing drive and talent.

Joe Everly



By Denise Nilan

Basketball season has begun once again and as fans pack the stands to watch the Boys Varsity home games, many may ask who is that new number 23? Standing at 6 foot 3 inches, Joe Everly is San Marin's wing player from Indiana and a fresh face at San Marin. Born and raised in the East Coast, Everly started playing basketball at a young age due to his father's influence and has been working on his game ever since he first touched a basketball. At his previous school in Indiana,

he joined the Varsity team as a sophomore. Since his move out to California last spring he has been a welcomed addition to San Marin's basketball program. Now, Everly is the starting wing and an essential player on the Boys Varsity team. In his first game alone he was able to contribute twelve points and has been a great contribution to every game since then. Everly looks at his new team and the upcoming season optimistically, "I really like the team and our coaching staff so it should be a pretty good year."

Christmas Mad Lib

By Ben Calkins

Fill in the blanks and then insert your answers in the paragraph below.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Period of Time _____ | 22. Verb _____ |
| 2. Place _____ | 23. Noun _____ |
| 3. Noun _____ | 24. Name of First Person _____ |
| 4. Verb ending in -ing _____ | 25. Place _____ |
| 5. Noun _____ | 26. Verb _____ |
| 6. Noun _____ | 27. Verb _____ |
| 7. Place _____ | 28. Material _____ |
| 8. Name of Someone in Room _____ | 29. Body Part _____ |
| 9. Verb ending in -ing _____ | 30. Shape _____ |
| 10. Body Part _____ | 31. Verb _____ |
| 11. Adjective _____ | 32. Verb _____ |
| 12. Number _____ | 33. Plural Noun _____ |
| 13. Animals _____ | 34. Verb _____ |
| 14. Adjective _____ | 35. Verb ending in -ing _____ |
| 15. Adjective _____ | 36. A Motion _____ |
| 16. Time Period _____ | 37. Noun _____ |
| 17. Name of Same Person in Room _____ | 38. Verb _____ |
| 18. Adjective _____ | 39. Past Tense Verb _____ |
| 19. Noun _____ | 40. Holiday _____ |
| 20. New Person's Name _____ | 41. Adjective _____ |
| 21. Place _____ | |

The Night Before Christmas

Twas the (1)_____ before Christmas and all through the (2)_____,
 Not a (3)_____ was (4)_____, not even a (5)_____.
 All the (6)_____ were hung by the (7)_____ with care
 In the hope that Saint (8)_____ soon would be there.
 Then, what to my (9)_____ (10)_____ should appear,
 A (11)_____ sleigh and (12)_____ tiny (13)_____,
 A little (14)_____ driver so (15)_____ and quick,
 I knew in a (16)_____ it must be Saint (17)_____.
 And more (18)_____ than (19)_____ his reindeer all came
 As he hollered, "Oh (20)_____" and each reindeer's name.
 And so up to the (21)_____ the reindeer soon (22)_____,
 With the sleigh full of (23)_____ and Saint (24)_____, too.
 Down the (25)_____ he came with a (26)_____ and a (27)_____;
 He was dressed all in (28)_____, and his (29)_____ was (30)_____.
 He (31)_____ not a word but (32)_____ straight to this work,
 And filled all the (33)_____, then (34)_____ with a jerk,
 And (35)_____ his finger aside of his nose,
 Then giving a (36)_____ up the (37)_____ he rose
 But I (38)_____ him exclaim as he (39)_____ out of sight,
 "Merry (40)_____ to all, and to all a (41)_____ night!"

Fun Facts

By Ben Calkins

Butterflies taste with their feet.

A ducks quack doesn't echo, and know one knows why.

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all the worlds nuclear weapons combined.

On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.

On average, more people fear spiders than they do death.

Thirty-Five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

Elephants are the only mammals that can't jump.

Only one person out of two billion people will live to be 116 or older.

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

A snail can sleep for 3 years.

No word in the English language rhymes with the word month?

Quote of the Issue

"The secret of creativity is knowing how to hide your sources." - Albert Einstein

ASB Accounts

ASB General	\$5,736.08
Class of 2004	\$12,344.68
Class of 2005	\$3,001.87
Class of 2006	\$2,578.35
Class of 2007	\$1,264.88

Final Exam Schedule

Tuesday, December 16

Period 1: 7:40 AM-8:15 AM
 Period 2 Final: 8:20 AM-10:15 AM
 Break: 10:15 AM-10:25 AM
 Period 3: 10:30 AM- 10:50 AM
 Period 4: 10:55 AM-11:15 AM
 Period 5: 11:20 AM-11:40 PM
 Period 6: 11:45 PM-12:05 PM
 Period 7: 12:10 PM-12:30 PM

Wednesday, December 17

Period 3 Final: 8:20 AM-10:15 AM
 Break: 10:15 AM-10:30 AM
 Period 4 Final: 10:35 AM-12:30 PM

Thursday, December 18

Period 5 Final: 8:20 AM-10:15 AM
 Break: 10:15 AM-10:30 AM
 Period 6 Final: 10:35 AM-12:30 PM

Friday, December 19

Period 1 Final: 8:20 AM-10:15 AM
 Break: 10:15 AM-10:30 AM
 Period 7 Final: 10:35 AM-12:30 PM

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